THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Changes in Foodgrains Procurement Policy

1863. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have effected any change in its procurement policy of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Governments have supported this programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):(a) to (d) No, Sir. Under the present policy, Government procures all the foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies under price support operations. However, the farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Government at support prices or in the open market, as is advantageous to them.

However, in order to make the concept of Minimum Support Price a reality to all farmers every where in the country, the Union Government has been persuading States to adopt the scheme of decentralized procurement. Under this scheme, the State Governments would procure, store and distribute food grains to meet their requirement for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. The difference between the economic cost of the State

Government and Central Issue Price (CIP) is passed on to State Government as food subsidy. Government of India would work out a detailed scheme in consultation with State Governments to share gains of localized procurement. It has been clarified to the States that the scheme would not be imposed on any State. The present arrangement would continue where States are not yet prepared to shift to a decentralized system of procurement.

Meetings have been convened with Food Secretaries of Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Karnatka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The Government of Assam is willing to implement the scheme. The States were made aware of the benefits of decentralized procurement scheme and were asked to submit a comprehensive blue print of the proposals required to be addressed, to embark on this scheme.

Fair Price Shop in Jangla, Shimla

†1864. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider for opening of a fair shop in Jangla in Shimla district so that the common man, particularly farmers could get essential commodities at fair price;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):(a) to (c) As reported by Government of Himachal Pradesh, a fair price shop at Jangla in Shimla District is already functioning which is being run by the Ransar Valley Cooperative M.P. Society Ltd. Jangla and the above society is also distributing essential commodities satisfactorily to 361 card holders

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.